

Application No.: 10/088,823

Docket No.: (AP9691)64098-0917

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are previously canceled. Claims 38, 42, 46, 48, 49, 55, 59, 63, 64, 66 and 67 are amended herein. Claims 40, 41, 45, 61, and 69 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 38, 39, 42-44, 46-60, 62-68 and 70-74 remain under prosecution in this application.

In the Abstract

The Examiner has requested that "means" be removed from the Abstract. The undersigned has amended the Abstract to make it more readable including removing "means" from the Abstract. However, close review of the use of "means" in the Abstract shows that it was not used in the sense of a "means for" claim.

In the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the use of "force-measuring elements" of claim 61 and has also objected to the use of "projection and stop" of claim 69 inasmuch as these elements are not shown in the drawings. The undersigned has canceled both claim 61 and 69 and accordingly this objection is believed to be overcome.

35 USC §112, second paragraph

Claims 38-74 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The undersigned has considered each and every one of the Examiner's rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph and has made the appropriate corrections to each one of the relevant claims. Inasmuch as the undersigned believes that the claim amendments are self-explanatory, no further discussion is necessary.

35 USC §102

Claims 38, 39, 45-47, 50-54, 56, 57, and 70-74 are rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by WO 99/45292. Claim 38 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 40, 41, and 45. None of the references of record teach or suggest the invention set forth in amended claim 38 and accordingly, the undersigned believes that claim 38 and its dependent claims are now in condition for allowance.

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In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. (AP9691)64098-0917 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 7, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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